## Some Effects of Domestic Violence on Children

#### **Newborns**

Failure to thrive Physical injuries Sleep disturbances Eating disturbances Anxiety Non-responsive or excessive crying Appearing fussy or irritable Intensified startle response



### **Toddlers/Pre-schoolers**

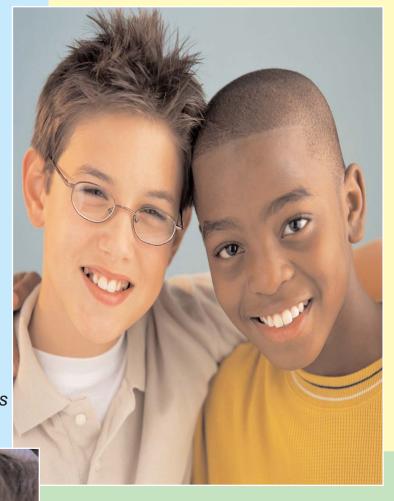
All of the above PLUS: Frozen watchfulness Aggressive behavior (toward people or animals) Hyperactivity Inability to focus Separation anxiety Silence & withdrawal Regressive behaviors Plays or re-enacts the DV events **Nightmares** PTSD

(in some cases)

# **School Age Children**

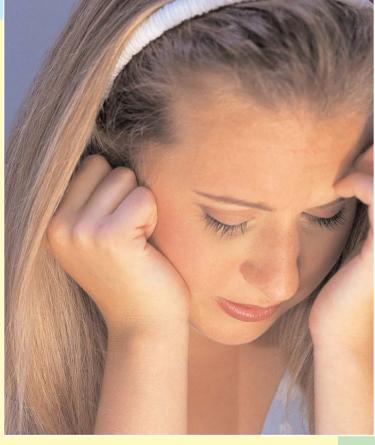
All of the above PLUS:
Behavioral changes
(acting out or perfectionism)
"Daymares" about the event
Psychosomatic complaints
School phobia
Distrust of adults
Displaced fears
Academic problems
Depression
Anxiety
(i.e. nail biting hair pulling, skin picking)

Self-Injurious behavior
Low self-esteem
Lack of interest in pleasurable activities
Inappropriate expression of feelings



# **Preadolescent & Teens**

All of the above PLUS:
Difficulty relating to peers
Continued academic issues
Accelerated entry into the adult world
("growing up fast")
Anger, shame, betrayal
Anti-social or at-risk behaviors
(self-injury, gang activity, risk taking,
substance use and/or abuse)
Sleep and/or eating disorders
Isolation from peers
Withdrawal from family
Become controlling or passive in
their own relationships with family,
peers, & dating partners



Community Support Services
Women's Commission
Children's Services

704-336-3210